National River Conservation Plan

2806. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan is being implemented;

(b) the rivers included under the conservation plan so far;

(c) whether any river in orissa has been included under the plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored National River Conservation Plan is being implemented since July, 1995.

(b) There are 22 rivers included under the National River Conservation Plan. They are; (1) Ganga, (2) Yamuna, (3) Gomti, (4) Damodar, (5) Godavari, (6) Krishna, (7) Subarnrekha, (8) Sabarmati, (9) Tunga, (10) Bhadra, (11) Tunga-bhadra, (12) Cauvery, (13) Khan, (14) Kshipra, (15) Tapti, (16) Betwa, (17) Narmada, (18) Wainganga, (19) Chambal, (20) Mahanadi, (21) Brahmani, and (22) Satluj.

(c) to (e) Two rivers of Orissa namely *Mahanadi & Brachmani* have been included under the Plan at an approved cost of Rs. 23.98 crore. The towns covered are Cuttack, Telcher, Chandbali and Dharamshala. So far, an amount of Rs. 0.15 crore has been spent thereon.

Protection of Pacific Ridley Sea Turtles

2807. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Orissa Government and the Central Government every month to save the pacific Ridley sea turtles at Bhitarakanika in Orissa; and

(b) the details of steps presently being taken for the proper protection of those sea turtles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Government of India have released an amount of Rs. 51 lakhs and Rs. 12.6 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-development Around Protected Areas respectively, to save the pacific Ridley sea turtles in Gahirmatha Sanctuary.

(b) the steps taken by the Government are as follows:

(i) Government of Orissa has decided that the mechanised boats with gill nets would not be allowed to fish in the area notified as Gahirmatha Sanctuary.

(ii) Forest Department has hired mechanised boats for effective patrolling of the area from land ward side. One Assistant Conservator of Forests and a section of Police is being earmarked exclusively for the patrolling work.

(iii) Coast Guards have been directed to intensify the patrolling of the Sanctuary from the sea ward side.

'WHO and WRI's Study on Pollution'

2808. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the joint study conducted by WHO and WRI (World Resource Institute) revealing that the Indian metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta are the World's most polluted cities where children under five are facing the great risk of air pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The relevant information is being collected and it will be laid on the table of the House.

World Bank aid for Cleansing Yamuna

2809. SHRIMATI VEENA VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for cleansing the Yamuna and preventing further pollution of Yamuna waters, in and around the capital with World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, its cost and the World Bank aid expected therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far for cleansing the Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No plan for cleansing the Yamuna and for preventing the further pollution of Yamuna waters with World Bank aid in and around the capital is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Yamuna Action Plan was launched in April, 1993. Under this Plan, a capacity to treat 745 million litres per day of sewage will be created. The plan is in various stages of progress. Schemes have been sanctioned for a sum of Rs. 451.47 crores in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The Schemes sanctioned include (1) interception and diversion works (2) sewage treatment plants (3) low cost sanitation (4) river front development works (5) afforestation and (6) construction of crematoria. Two sewage treatment plants and an electric crematorium have been taken up in Delhi under the Plan. In addition, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi under its own plan is constructing sewage treatment plants with appurtenant works at an approved cost of Rs. 469.67 crores. All these plants, except one will be completed by December, 1999. The remaining sewage treatment plant is targeted for completion by June, 2000.

Extinction of Wild Ass

2810. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salt industry and noise and air pollution are driving wild ass in the Rann of Kutch to extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to protect the endangered species in their habitat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An area of 4953.70 sq. km. has been declared as Wild Ass Sanctuary and the settlement of its boundaries is being done on top priority.

Lead contents in the atmosphere in Delhi

2811. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the lead content in the atmosphere over Delhi has dropped by 61% the suspended particulate matter (SPM) level has remained consistently high at about 359 mg/m^3 over the last ten years;